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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. -- 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A process for producing a supported catalyst according to claim 1, comprising a support (S) in which Al₂O₃ is present in a proportion of at least 75% by weight and rhenium compounds as active component (A), wherein the maximum of the distribution function of the pore diameters in the mesopore range is from 0.008 to 0.050 μm , which comprises

- a1) in step (a1), producing a raw mixture (a) comprising the support (S) onto which the active component (A) may have been applied optionally, a pore-forming material (P), optionally auxiliaries and optionally an active component,
- b1) in step (b1), forming shaped bodies for supported catalysts from the raw mixture (a) and, either simultaneously or in a subsequent separate procedure, removing the pore-forming material (P) by heating,
- c1) in step (c1), optionally applying the active component (A) to the shaped bodies, with the step (c1) being obligatory if the production of the raw mixture (a) in step (a1) has been carried out without using the active component (A) or a support (S) to which an active component (A) has already been applied and otherwise being optional.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 5, wherein the pore-forming material (P) is selected from the group consisting of tartaric acid, oxalic acid, citric acid, ammonium nitrate, ammonium oxalate, guanidinium salts, urotropin, protein, carbohydrate, polytetrahydrofuran, surfactants, sulfonic acids, polyvinyl alcohol, methylcellulose, polyalcohols, lactic acid, polyethylene oxides, polymethylene oxides, polypropylene oxides, polyolefins, nut shell powders, polyacrylates, carbonates, hydrogencarbonates, fats, waxes, fatty acids, alginates, textile fibers, plant fibers and oxalates.

7. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 5, wherein the raw mixture (a) is prepared as a powdered mixture and the shaped bodies are produced by pressing the powder mixture.

8. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 5, wherein the raw mixture (a) is prepared as an extrudable suspension in which the support (S) and the pore former (P) form a discontinuous phase and a customary suspension medium forms the continuous phase and the active component (A), if present, is dissolved or suspended in the continuous phase.

9. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 5, wherein the raw mixture (a) prepared as an extrudable suspension in step (a) is converted in step (b) into a moldable supported catalyst precursor by shaping the extrudable suspension to form shaped bodies for supported catalysts and subsequently curing the shaped bodies by evaporating the suspension medium.

10. – 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A process for producing the supported catalyst ~~according to claim 1, comprising a support (S) in which Al₂O₃ is present in a proportion of at least 75% by weight and rhenium compounds as active component (A), wherein the maximum of the distribution function of the pore diameters in the mesopore range is from 0.008 to 0.050 µm,~~ which comprises

- a2) in step (a2), preparing a suspension which can be processed in a pan mill and in which a suspension medium forms the continuous phase and a support (S) having a maximum of the distribution function of the pore diameters in the mesopore range at from 0.002 to 0.008 µm is present in the discontinuous phase and, optionally, the active component (A) and auxiliaries are dissolved or suspended in the continuous phase,
- b2) in step (b2), treating this suspension in a pan mill until the fine surface structure of the support (S) suspended therein has been altered to such an extent that shaped bodies produced from the suspension have, after drying, a maximum of the distribution function of the pore diameters in the mesopore range at from 0.008 to 0.050 µm.

14. – 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 5, wherein the pore-forming material (P) is selected from the group consisting of tartaric acid, oxalic acid, citric acid, ammonium nitrate, ammonium oxalate, guanidinium salts, urotropin, gelatin, glucose, sucrose, soluble starch, polytetrahydrofuran, surfactants, sulfonic acids, polyvinyl alcohol, methylcellulose, polyalcohols, lactic acid, polyethylene oxides, polymethylene oxides, polypropylene oxides, polyolefins, nut shell powders, polyacrylates, carbonates, hydrogencarbonates, fats, waxes, fatty acids, alginates, textile fibers, plant fibers and oxalates.

17. (New) The process according to claim 5, wherein the support (S) comprises Al_2O_3 and a compound selected from the group consisting of SiO_2 , aluminosilicates, TiO_2 , ZrO_2 , MgO , CeO_2 and ZnO .

18. (New) The process according to claim 5, wherein the active component (A) comprises rhenium oxide together with a promoter selected from the group consisting of phosphorus oxide, Fe_2O_3 , tantalum oxide, ZrO_2 , SiO_2 , niobium oxide, oxides of the elements of the lanthanide series, vanadium oxide, molybdenum, tungsten, alkali metal, alkaline earth metal and tin compounds.

19. (New) The process according to claim 5, wherein the amount of rhenium compound is selected so that the supported catalyst comprises from 0.01 to 1 mmol of rhenium per gram of supported catalyst.

20. (New) The process according to claim 13, wherein the support (S) comprises Al_2O_3 and a compound selected from the group consisting of SiO_2 , aluminosilicates, TiO_2 , ZrO_2 , MgO , CeO_2 and ZnO .

21. (New) The process according to claim 13, wherein the active component (A) comprises rhenium oxide together with a promoter selected from the group consisting of phosphorus oxide, Fe_2O_3 , tantalum oxide, ZrO_2 , SiO_2 , niobium oxide, oxides of the elements of the lanthanide series, vanadium oxide, molybdenum, tungsten, alkali metal, alkaline earth metal and tin compounds.

22. (New) The process according to claim 13, wherein the amount of rhenium compound is selected so that the supported catalyst comprises from 0.01 to 1 mmol of rhenium per gram of supported catalyst.